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a topsheet, a backsheet joined to the topsheet, an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet, and a pair of barrier leg cuffs having a proximal edge and a distal edge and being positioned adjacent to the longitudinal edges of the containment assembly;

- (b) a pair of rear ear panels extending laterally outwardly from the proximal edges of the barrier leg cuff in the rear waist region;
- (c) a pair of front ear panels extending laterally outwardly from the proximal edges of the barrier leg cuff in the front waist region; and
- (d) a reinforcement nonwoven joined immediately adjacent to an inner-facing surface of the backsheet and to at least one of either the rear ear panels or the front ear panels, the reinforcement nonwoven not substantially overlapping the containment assembly.

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**REMARKS**

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the examination of the above-identified application.

This response fully addresses the issues raised in the aforementioned Advisory Action. No new matter has been added in this response.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner repeated the rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Suzuki (EP 040832). The Examiner stated the following:

“In reference to the 102 rejection of claims 1-10, applicant argues Suzuki does not teach a reinforcement nonwoven joined to an inner-facing surface of the backsheet. The argument is not persuasive in that while Suzuki does disclose a topsheet between the reinforcement nonwoven and the backsheet, Suzuki does provide a reinforcement nonwoven indirectly joined to an inner-facing surface of the backsheet. The ‘comprising’ language used in claim 1 is open-ended and does not exclude the presence of other elements.”

Applicants traverse the rejection and request reconsideration and withdrawal in view of the amended claim 1 and the following arguments.